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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

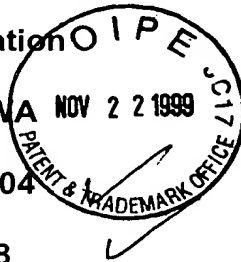
In re U.S. Patent Application

Keitaro YONEZAWA

Serial Number: 09/209,004

Filed: 11 December 1998

For: CLAMPING APPARATUS



Examiner: R. Watson

Group Art Unit: 3723

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION NOTICE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is responsive to the Official Action mailed October 27, 1999 requiring Applicant to elect a preferred species of the claimed invention for continued examination in this application in the event that no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Examiner has acknowledged that claim 1 is generic.

Applicant hereby elects figures 1 - 4 as the preferred embodiment to which the claims may be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Claims 1 - 8 and 10 - 13 are believed to be readable upon the elected species.

All rights are reserved to the non-elected subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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